

Dillon Resource Management Plan

Update #1 November 2001

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Thanks to all of you who participated in the scoping process for the Dillon Resource Management Plan. This is the first in a series of update letters you'll be receiving as we move through the planning process and develop an RMP for BLM managed public lands in the Dillon Field Office.



If you received this letter, you are on our mailing and/or email list. If there is a problem with your address information, or you would like to be removed, please contact Andrea Wiggins at (406) 683-8022 or send an email to MT_Dillon_RMP@blm.gov. The BLM Dillon Field Office address is 1005 Selway Drive, Dillon, Montana 59725. If you know of someone who would like to be added to the mailing list, pass this information on and have them contact Andrea or the email box.

Where We Are

Scoping, which is the process of gathering initial information for planning, is well on the way to being completed. On August 9th, a Notice of Intent was published in the Federal Register formally starting the planning process. We sent scoping brochures in September to approximately 1,000 individuals, organizations, government agencies, and public land users. Additional letters were sent

to local, State, Federal and Tribal governments inviting their participation.

Five open houses were held at the end of September and beginning of October, with the dates and locations announced in local media sources and in the scoping brochure. The meetings provided additional information to help people make scoping comments and un-

derstand the process. This same information was also available on the Dillon RMP website at www.mt.blm.gov/dfo. Staff specialists from the BLM were on hand at the open houses to answer questions and discuss concerns. Accounting for people who did not sign-in, over 50 people attended a meeting at one of the locations.

City	Date	Number of Sign-Ins
Lima	September 25, 2001	5
Dillon	September 26, 2001	18
Sheridan	September 27, 2001	9
Butte	October 1, 2001	5
Ennis	October 2, 2001	9

Scoping comments were requested by October 19, 2001. We have received almost 200 responses to date, with some providing comments and others just requesting to stay on the mailing list.

We will be reading and reviewing the comments over the next few months. Scoping input will be summarized in our next update—which will also provide issue and plan-

ning criteria modifications that we make as a result of public comment and work by the planning team.

Special Area Nominations

During scoping, BLM requested nominations for streams to be considered under the Wild and Scenic River review to be conducted as part of the RMP process, and for areas to be considered as potential Areas of Critical Environmental

Concern (ACECs). The planning team has been working on the first step of the Wild and Scenic River review known as the inventory phase. We expect to release information on this step in January 2002. The team has not yet

started review or evaluation of any ACEC nominations. We hope to begin this early next year as the team works through the analysis of the management situation.

Information Fair

There seems to be widespread interest in the resource data and inventory information that will be used as we develop the RMP. We will hold an Information Fair in early 2002 to share some of the baseline resource and program

information the team will use in the planning process. Specialists on the planning team are currently working to compile this information. This event will be publicized once we determine exact times and dates—probably

sometime in February or March. We also hope to be able to provide Geographic Information System (GIS) data on our website in the future.

Public Involvement

We continue to seek new ways to solicit meaningful involvement from the public in development of the RMP. The Western Montana Resource Advisory Council (RAC) will meet in January to discuss what role they will take in devel-

opment of the RMP. The Montana Consensus Council has worked with the BLM and convened a coordinating committee with representatives from various groups and interests with the purpose of identifying public partici-

pation opportunities for BLM to consider as the planning process unfolds. For example, this committee discussed and endorsed the idea of the Information Fair described above.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR INTEREST AND PARTICIPATION!

For further information on the RMP and the planning process, contact Renee Johnson, RMP Project Coordinator at (406) 683-8016.